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Appl. No. 10/594,124
May 21, 2008

Please amend the title at page 25, before claim 1 as follows:

CLAIMS WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. Cancelled.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The system according to claim [[1]]16 in which the notification takes the form of a non-executable data file.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The system according to claim 2 in which the notification takes the form of a simple text file containing an extensible Markup Language, XML, document.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The system according to claim [[1]]16 ~~further including running within~~ wherein the notification ~~server application~~ means is operable to run separate threads for controlling the forwarding of separate notifications to the client application.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The system according to claim [[1]]16 ~~further including the server application specifying~~ wherein the notification means includes means for permitting each service provided by the first sub-system to specify the number of times which [[the]]a notification is to be retried in the event of failure to deliver the notification and ~~further including the notification~~ means for server retrying to deliver the notification up to the specified number of times in the event of failure to deliver the notification over the unsecure network.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~The system according to claim [[1]]16 wherein a single notification server receives notifications from plural ~~server applicationservices~~ and forwards these to plural client ~~applications~~application hosting sub-systems.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A client server system~~The system according to claim ~~7 further comprising~~16 wherein the first sub-system is a backend subsystem which provides services to the ~~server subsystem~~gateway and, wherein the server subsystem acts as a trusted intermediary between the ~~client~~each application hosting subsystem and the backend subsystem.

9-15. Cancelled.

16. (New) A system comprising:

a first sub-system and a gateway for offering services provided by the first sub-system to one or more application hosting sub-systems via the gateway; the gateway and each application hosting sub-system being arranged to permit each application hosting sub-system to initiate a secure and authenticated connection from each application hosting sub-system to the gateway via a non-secure data network connection, and

the gateway being logically connected to the first sub-system to enable the services provided by the first sub-system to be provided to each application hosting sub-system via a secured and authenticated connection,

the gateway including notification means for notifying one or more of the application hosting sub-systems that it should initiate a secure authenticated connection with the gateway when the notification means is requested so to do by any one of the services offered by the first sub-system.

17. (New) A method of offering services provided by a first sub-system to one or more application hosting sub-systems via a gateway, the gateway and each application hosting sub-system being arranged to permit each application hosting sub-system to initiate a secure and authenticated connection from each application hosting sub-system to the gateway via a non-secure data network connection, and the gateway being logically connected to the first sub-system to enable the services provided by the first sub-system to be provided to each application hosting sub-system via a secured and authenticated connection, the method comprising :

sending a request from a service wishing to set up a secure and authenticated connection to an application hosting sub-system that the notification means send a notification to a respective application hosting sub-system to notify it that it should initiate a secure authenticated connection with the gateway;

causing the application hosting sub-system to set up a secure and authenticated connection with the gateway in response to receipt of the notification, and communicating with the initiating service via said connection.

18. (New)) Computer readable storage media containing a program or suite of computer programs for controlling one or more computer processors to carry out the steps of claim 17 during execution of the computer program or suite of programs.